Louisiana Energy Facts Department of Natural Resources Technology Assessment Division

The Louisiana natural gas average spot market price for March 1998 was \$2.19 per MMBTU. This was 44% below the January 1997 price of \$3.91 per MMBTU. For the first quarter of 1998, the average price was \$2.13 per MMBTU. This was \$0.70 per MMBTU below the 1997 first quarter average. Milder winter weather than expected in the U.S., adequate gas storage levels, additional supply from new pipelines, and low crude oil prices are the reasons for the decrease.

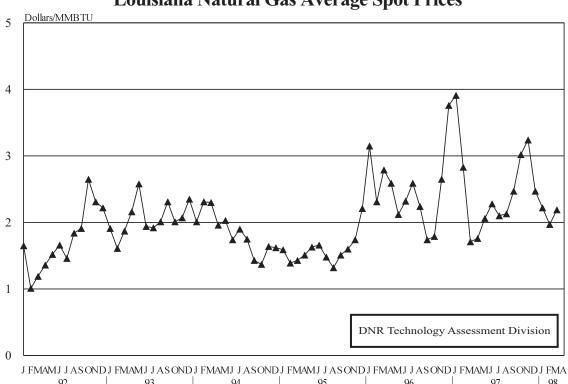
Louisiana Natural Gas Average Spot Prices^E (Dollars/MMBTU)

Percentage

							1 crecinage
							Change
Month	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	97/98 or 96/97
January	1.91	2.01	1.59	3.15	3.91	2.22	-43.18%
February	1.61	2.31	1.39	2.31	2.83	1.97	-30.35%
March	1.87	2.30	1.43	2.79	1.71	2.19	27.75%
April	2.16	1.96	1.51	2.59	1.76		-31.77%
May	2.58	2.03	1.63	2.12	2.06		-2.69%
June	1.94	1.74	1.66	2.32	2.28		-1.85%
July	1.92	1.90	1.48	2.59	2.10		-18.78%
August	2.01	1.75	1.32	2.24	2.13		-4.79%
September	2.31	1.43	1.51	1.74	2.47		42.39%
October	2.01	1.37	1.60	1.79	3.02		68.53%
November	2.07	1.64	1.74	2.65	3.24		22.37%
December	2.35	1.62	2.21	3.76	2.47		-34.35%
Year Average	2.06	1.84	1.59	2.50	2.50	2.13*	

^{*}Partial year

Louisiana Natural Gas Average Spot Prices^E



	JAN 98	DEC 97	JAN 97	SOURCE
SPOT MARKET PRICES				
Louisiana Natural Gas Average (\$/MMBTU)	2.22	2.47	3.91	Е
Louisiana Sweet Crude-St. James (\$/barrel)	16.71	18.66	22.57 ²	В
BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNTS				
North Louisiana	21	18	172	Α
South Louisiana Inland Waters	23	23	22	Α
South Louisiana Inland	55	61	35^{2}	Α
Louisiana Offshore (State + OCS)	117	115	85 ²	
Total Louisiana (OCS included)	216	217	159 ²	Α
The United States Total	995	1,013	822 ²	A
PRODUCTION				
LOUISIANA STATE JURISDICTION ONLY				
Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	10.7	10.8	11.2 ²	
Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)	129.4	129.3	134.92	

	SEP 97	AUG 97	SEP 96	SOURCE
PRODUCTION				
LOUISIANA FEDERAL OFFS ORE (OCS)				
Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	30	30	28	C
Natural Gas Marketed Production (BCF)	345	347	292 ²	C
<u>UNITED STATES TOTAL</u>				
Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	192	195	195	C
Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)	1,545	1,599	1,531 ²	С
IMPORTS				
UNITED STATES				
Crude Oil (MMB)	256	258	220	C
Natural Gas (BCF)	240	249	238 ²	C
PERMITS				
LOUISIANA STATE JURISDICTION ONLY				
Total Oil and Gas	143	134	113	
Wildcats	12	13	5	
State Offshore (Wildcats included)	9	6	7	
PRICES				
CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel)				
OPEC Average (F.O.B.)	16.49	16.37^{2}	20.67^{2}	C
U.S. Imports Average (F.O.B.)	16.73	16.68^2	21.03 ²	C
U.S. Wellhead Average	16.44	16.21 ²	19.93 ²	C
Gulf OCS Wellhead Average	17.77	17.76	21.64	C
State Wellhead Average	18.53	17.99	21.93	D
NATURAL GAS PRICES (\$/MCF)	2.61	2.442	2.0.73	
U.S. City Gate	3.61	3.442	3.05^2	C
U.S. Imports Average	1.84	1.83	1.62^2	C
U.S. Wellhead Average	2.44	2.21	1.85^{2}	С
State Royalty Wellhead Average	2.61	1.62^{2}	1.87	

1 Estimated 2 Revised MMBTU: Million BTU BCF: Billion Cubic Feet F.O.B.: Free on board MCF: Thousand Cubic Feet Note: Unless otherwise specified, Louisiana data excludes Federal OCS.

OCS: Outer Continental Shelf N/A: Not Available

MMB: Million Barrels

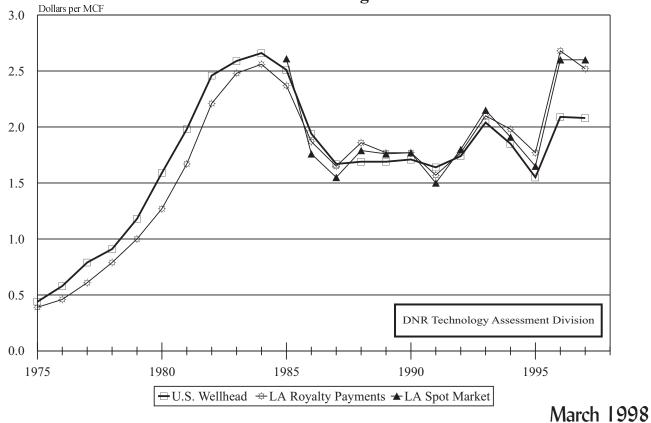
DATA SOURCES
Unless otherwise specified, data is from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.
A: Oil and Gas Journal
B: Wall Street Journal
C: U.S. Department of Energy
D: Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation
E: Natural Gas Clearinghouse

Natural Gas Average Prices (Dollars/MCF)*

	<u>UNIT</u>		TES_	LOUIS]	[ANA
		Foreign	City	Royalty	Spot
Year	Wellhead ^C	<u>Imports</u> ^C	<u>Gate</u> ^C	<u>Payments</u>	Market* ^E
1975	0.44	1.31	$\overline{0.80}$	0.39	N/A
1976	0.58	1.73	0.98	0.46	N/A
1977	0.79	1.99	1.31	0.61	N/A
1978	0.91	2.21	1.47	0.79	N/A
1979	1.18	2.60	1.81	1.00	N/A
1980	1.59	4.42	2.41	1.27	N/A
1981	1.98	4.84	2.89	1.67	N/A
1982	2.46	4.94	3.60	2.21	N/A
1983	2.59	4.51	4.04	2.48	N/A
1984	2.66	4.08	3.89	2.56	N/A
1985	2.51	3.19	3.75	2.37	2.61
1986	1.94	2.53	3.22	1.87	1.76
1987	1.67	2.17	2.87	1.65^{2}	1.55
1988	1.69	2.00	2.92	1.86	1.79
1989	1.69	2.04	3.01	1.77	1.76
1990	1.71	1.94^{2}	3.03	1.77^{2}	1.77
1991	1.64	1.83^{2}	2.90	1.57	1.50
1992	1.74	1.85^{2}	3.01	1.77	1.80
1993	2.04	2.03^{2}	3.21	2.10	2.15
1994	1.85	1.87^{2}	3.07	1.98^{2}	1.91
1995	1.55	1.49^{2}	2.78	1.77^{2}	1.65
1996	2.09	1.83	3.19	2.68^{2}	2.60
1997	2.08	1.99	2.09	2.52	2.60

^{*}See table on page 1 for average spot market prices on a BTU basis.

Natural Gas Average Prices



Spot Market Price Monthly Average

March 1998

Louisiana Natural Gas \$2.19/MMBTU

February 1998

Louisiana Sweet Crude-St. James \$16

\$16.45/barrel

PERMITS - Louisiana Jurisdiction Only

	January 1998
Total Oil and Gas	114
Wildcats	10
State Offshore (Wildcats included)	8

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